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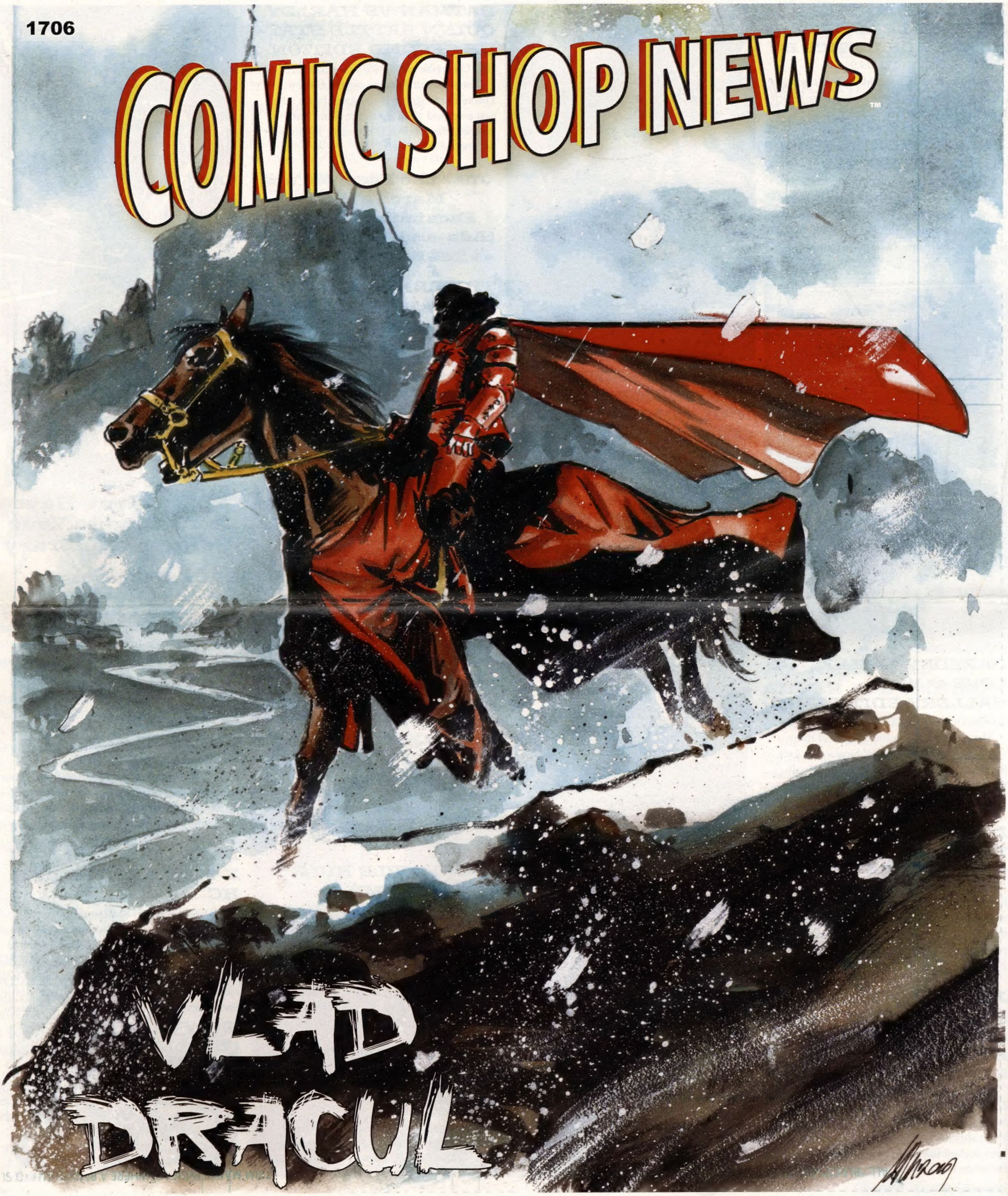
COMIC SHOP NEWS™



Vlad to Be Here

His name was appropriated by *Bram Stoker* for horror fiction's most malevolent vampire. He is best remembered in the real world for his acts of brutality and cruelty. But there is more to Vlad Dracul than that—as *Matteo Strukul & Andrea Mutti* reveal in the pages of their new Scout Comics series ***Vlad Dracul.***

As *James Pruett* of Scout Comics explained, "Vlad Dracul II, the Impaler, the Son of the Dragon, was a Warlord, a Voivod, a Guardian Warrior, an iconic historical figure who was able to successfully strike fear into the hearts of the fearsome Ottoman Empire. *Vlad Dracul* is an epic story of love and war, a historical ride with rivers of blood, tears, swords, and love and a discovery of a man that was, perhaps, the most famous warrior of his era that inspired the Dracula legends. This is the story of the man *behind* the myth."

"Andrea and I would like to tell the story about the man behind the legend because we think that the man *is* the legend," Strukul said. "We were much more interested in the historical character than in the vampire; we really would like to show the dark adventures of this bloodthirsty warlord who was ready to fight against the largest army of the 15th century—the one led by Mehmed II the Conqueror, sultan of the Ottoman Empire—to protect his land, his love, and his people from the most powerful enemy ever."

While Strukul and Mutti are trying to be historically accurate in ***Vlad Dracul,*** they have no intention of simply presenting a dry historical account. "I do like to write a historical tale, but with the flavor of Shakespeare's dramas," Strukul said. "Plus, I personally love historical American comic book limited series like ***300*** by *Frank Miller*, or comic book series like ***Northlanders*** penned by *Brian Wood* and, of course, ***Rebels*** by *Brian Wood* and *Andrea Mutti*, my partner on ***Vlad Dracul***.

"So Andrea and I started from a solid historical background and tried to depict an iconic, legendary historical character in a dramatic fashion. But everything we tell in the story—for instance Vlad's love for Katharina von Siegel, the Night Attack, the Scorched Earth strategy—all those facts and many others are historical. Andrea worked hard to capture those kind of wild settings and bloody battles and to show in the real way how warriors fought, what kind of weapons they used, how they dressed, or how castles and towns looked, and he has done a hell of a job!"

What makes Vlad so fascinating historically, other than his link to *Bram Stoker's* Dracula? "Vlad is a real hero for

Romanian people today, and he was also at that time because he was the only Christian prince who fought the Ottoman Empire, answering the requests of Pope Pius II. At the same time, he was a kind of *ante litteram* rock star in some way—a perfect character for a comic book miniseries, with his long black hair, his bloody red clothes, and his legendary courage as a warrior prince."

History tends to depict Vlad as an evil, bloodthirsty man. Is there more to him than that, and will we see more than that aspect of his persona in this series? "You definitely will," Strukul said. "As I said, Vlad *was* and *is* a real hero for Romanian people, and even if *Bram Stoker's* Dracula is a great fictional character, I must confess that Vlad the Impaler is a fascinating character, too—otherwise, why would *Bram Stoker* choose him to epitomize as a vampire and a Prince of Darkness?

"Vlad fought for his land, his love, and his people. He was one of the 1,000 Wallachian children given as a human tribute by the local Voivod to the Sultan and had to learn how cruel and terrible Ottoman military training could be. As a child—together with his younger brother Radu—he was tortured and raped for years by the Ottoman Guards in the Egrigoz Fortress. Andrea and I would like to explore what was behind the legend, what he suffered as a child, and how it helped shape him, led him to become the cruelest and most invincible warlord of the Christian world in 1461."

Although the tale of Dracula is not a part of ***Vlad Dracul,*** "I think that readers will recognize one sequence in which, in a subtle manner, Andrea and I pay a kind of homage to Count Dracula," Strukul said.

While Vlad Dracul may have in part inspired *Bram Stoker's* creation of ***Dracula,*** it was the film ***Bram Stoker's Dracula*** that inspired Strukul's creation of ***Vlad Dracul.*** "I remember that I really fell in love with the character when I watched for the very first time *Francis Ford Coppola's* ***Bram Stoker's Dracula***—in particular the first five minutes with *Gary Oldman* (my favorite actor of all times and personal hero, who was acting and speaking in Romanian in this part of the film) portraying Vlad the Impaler as he fought against the Ottoman army and then discovered that his princess had committed suicide, thinking that he died during the battle. At that point, Vlad cried and swore loyalty to the Devil and the Power of Darkness—I remember how amazing that sequence was.

"After that, I did extensive research on Vlad III of Wallachia, who was the son of a Knight of the Dragon—Dracula means Son of the Dragon, the Chivalric Order founded by Sigismund of Luxembourg, King of Hungary, on December 12, 1408. I discovered a lot of legends and tales about *Vlad Tepes*, this incredible historical figure.

"Then, some years after, I did my very first journey to Wallachia and Transylvania and... *wow!* I must confess that it's one of the most incredible countries I have ever seen. That was the first of five different journeys, dozens of non-fiction books studied, tons of archives and records consulted. I have resided for months in Transylvania and Wallachia, part because I really love the places, the wild nature, the old castles and medieval towns, and part because I have Transylvanian ancestors as my name, Strukul, indicates. I'm from northeast Italy, and in the 19th century, the Austro-Hungarian Empire dominated that Italian region, and a Hungarian Knight from Transylvania (Romania was not even born) had a love affair with a woman from Padua, and from there my bloodline was born.

"Vlad Dracul's tale is a strange, complex story and probably the reason why I feel so much love for those wild places and those dark tales. And here we are."

The project finally came to fruition when Strukul joined forces with artist *Andrea Mutti.* "It was my pleasure and honor to work with a great artist like Andrea. We are good friends, and it has been amazing to see how incredibly vivid and dark and powerful his art for ***Vlad Dracul*** is. I am also grateful to my American publisher, Scout Comics, for their faith in this project that I've been working on, off and on, since 1993. I really hope that the American readers will enjoy the ride!"

Vlad Dracul #1, a full-color 64-page $6.99 comic that kicks off the three-issue limited series, is scheduled for May 20th release.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy of your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

Zero Is the One for FCBD!

DC has unveiled its Free Comic Book Day 2020 plans—and those plans include a comic that will pave the way for DC's future!

Generation Zero, a 32-page comic featuring a stunning cover by *Francis Manapul*, includes key stories involving Wally West, the Fastest Man Alive, and Wonder Woman, warrior princess from the island of Themyscira. New and longtime fans can't afford to miss Generation Zero; this book lays the foundation for even more seismic-level changes in the DC Universe. How important is it? Well, DC sums it up in one sentence: "It all starts here, and everything counts."

The book begins with "Flash Forward: Epilogue," an extension of the unbelievable conclusion to the ***Flash Forward*** six-issue miniseries from the pages of ***Flash #750***, expanded with 12 pages of all-new content from the series creative team of *Scott Lobdell & Brett Booth.*

As DC describes the story, "In order to save his children and the multiverse itself, Wally West makes the ultimate sacrifice, taking his place in the Moebius Chair. Unbeknownst to him, the chair is packing a little extra power, having been imbued with the godlike powers of Dr Manhattan! Now armed with infinite knowledge—and the powers of a god—Wally West can see the past, present, and future of the DC Universe all at once... including what needs to be changed."

Generation Zero will also include a reprint of "A Brave New World" by *Scott Snyder & Bryan Hitch* from ***Wonder Woman #750***. In this tale, Wonder Woman makes her debut as DC's first superhero, saving the life of *Franklin D. Roosevelt* during an assassination attempt at the 1930 World's Fair in New York. As a nation hears more about her heroic exploits, it inspires some citizens to consider their own unique gifts, and how they could be used to help protect the world—among them Alan Scott, who will become the first Green Lantern!

DC's second FCBD 2020 title will be a 5.5"x8" flipbook spotlighting DC's middle-grade graphic novels. This title will feature the first chapters of ***Batman: Overdrive*** by *Shea Fontana & Marcelo Di Chiara* and ***Batman Tales: Once upon a Crime*** by *Derek Fridolfs & Dustin Nguyen.*

Both books will be available at participating comic shops on May 2nd, 2020. (And please remember that, while these books are free to readers on FCBD, comic shops have to pay for every single copy—so be sure to thank them for taking part in this once-a-year giveaway event!)

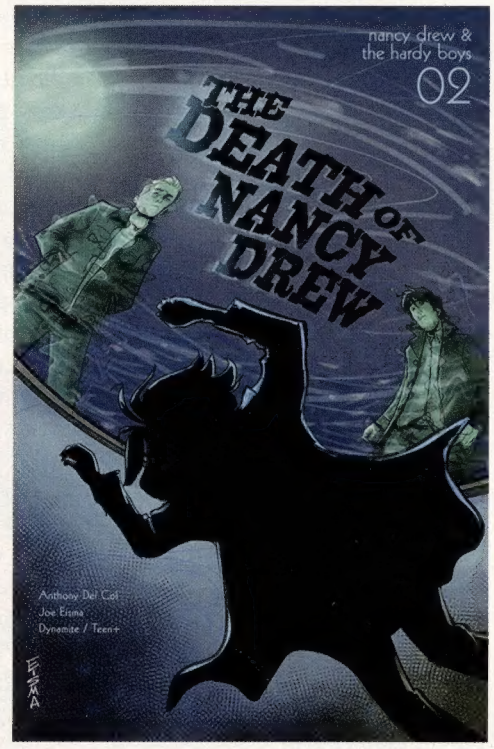
Coming Comics—Dynamite in May

As Hughie's discoveries take him down a highly dangerous rabbit hole, what he learns about the good old days reveals a strangely conflicted Butcher—at the worst possible time—as the Boys investigate a particularly insidious supe threat in ***The Boys: Dear Becky #2*** (by *Garth Ennis & Russ Braun).*

Team Ash is defeated by the Army of Darkness in ***Death to the Army of Darkness #4*** (by *Ryan Parrott & Jacob Edgar).* But what's this talk of a totally new Army of Darkness?

The boy who will kill Red Sonja encounters the Bird Overlord in ***Killing Red Sonja #3*** (by *Mark Russell, Bryce Ingman, & Craig Rousseau).* Normally, the Overlord's deadly birds seek only gold. But for the power this boy possesses, they may make an exception...

Is Nancy Drew *really* dead? Is she still alive? Joe and Frank Hardy dive deeper into what exactly happened the night of Nancy's death and discover something much deeper at play in ***Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys:***



The Death of Nancy Drew #2 (by *Anthony Del Col & Joe Eisma).*

Sonja the Red, the Master of War, goes to the domicile of the Master of Souls in ***Red Sonja #16*** (by *Mark Russell & Bob Q).* There, she learns the horrible truth of the army she is meant to lead into battle...

In the Great Desert of the east stands an abandoned temple of dark magic... the one place where Sonja and Chastity can set things right without the loss of innocent life. But by the time they get there, the sun has set, and the creatures of the night have come out to play. Jade and her thralls and a newly powered Purgatori arrive, and before this night is done, the amulet's power will at last be claimed in ***Red Sonja: Age of Chaos #5*** (by *Erik Burnham & Jonathan Lau).*

COMIC SHOP NEWS
Published weekly since 1987 by Comic Shop News, Inc.
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Transcontinental Interweb, Boucherville, Qc, Canada

Four women are lured to rural Georgia as part of a mysterious scheme to defend an impoverished farming town that finds itself under siege by zealots. But this isn't just any impoverished farming town, and these aren't just any four women. The all-new Draculina, Pantha, Nyx, and Chastity have been brought together in Ashthorne in an effort to avert all-out war against nearby Sacred, Georgia, in ***Sacred Six #1*** (by *Christopher Priest, Gabriel Ibarra, & Jae Lee*). But Ashthorne has a deadly secret; Sacred has a deadly purpose, and lurking in the shadows is Lilith, the immortal sorceress and mother to Vampirella.

In the aftermath of the tragic plane crash that changed Vampirella's life, Vampi's enemies revel in their triumph while she hits emotional rock bottom in ***Vampirella #11*** (by *Christopher Priest & Ergun Gunduz*), having lost the life she had built as "Ella Normandy." This leads Vampi to seek help from two unexpected sources: a trauma specialist working with the airline and, ultimately, the real enemy who's been out to destroy her.

Pantha's first appearance is offered in an ads-and-all facsimile format in the ***Vampirella #30 Replica Edition.***

In order to resurrect the Danse Macabre, Vampirella must first discover what secret Mr Sabastain was so desperate to keep hidden that he would summon and bind one of the legendary Hounds of Pandemonium to protect it. Who or what is Abbadon? Find out in ***Vengeance of Vampirella #8*** (by *Tom Sniegoski & Michael Sta Maria*).

Dynamite celebrates 30 years of *Joseph Michael Linsner's* original, signature Goddess of Rebirth, Dawn, with the release of the ***Dawn Lithograph by Joseph Michael Linsner,*** a high-quality lithograph printed on 100lb gallery silk stock, a material that's durable while rendering rich and vibrant colors. This lithograph is offered in regular, signed, and remarked editions.

Dynamite collected editions include:

- ***Chastity: Blood and Consequences,*** collecting ***Chastity #s 1–5.***
- ***Red Sonja Volume 5: End of the Road TP,*** collecting ***Red Sonja #s 21–25.***

Coming Comics—Scout in May

Get ready for another amazing standalone story featuring everyone's new favorite monsters in *Chris Hamer's* ***Adventures of Byron: Comic Capers.*** What happens when our monster pals find themselves swimming in the deep end of the boredom pool? Have no fear: A couple of blank pages, some pencils, and their wildest untamed imaginations are all they need to save the day!

All of the mysteries are revealed in *Dave Chisholm's* ***Canopus #4.*** With the apparent truth in tow and launch imminent, Helen's plan to escape the orbit of Canopus proves to be less than ideal. In the aftermath, Arther helps her find the heart of the matter as Helen comes face to face with her past.

After being attacked by masked assailants, team captain Gemma is abducted in ***Everglade Angels #2*** (by *Blake Northcutt, Scott Lobdell, & Roc Upchurch*), and the girls discover she may have left behind a secret weapon. Injured, exhausted, and lost in the middle of nowhere, the Angels race against time to save their missing friend... but first, they'll have to survive the Everglades.

When a routine troll-hunting gig takes a gruesome turn, Old Man Barrow finds himself in the company of a wannabe doomsday cult in ***Grit #1*** (by *Brian Wickman & Kevin Castaniero*). Just how's he going to get out of this backwoods nightmare? Well, that axe ain't just for show!...

The world as we knew it changed after the last of the great wars, leaving a large portion of North America a dead wasteland. It's in that wasteland that tales of a monster only known as Loggerhead exist. Within this wasteland, valuable elements and minerals have been unearthed, creating a hotbed of illegal mining overrun with scavengers. When some children find themselves endangered while witnessing an illegal scavenger mineral hunt, a protector rises from the murky depths of the wasteland to exact retribution in *Bryan Silverbax's* ***Loggerhead: Bloody Bayou.***

DEA Agent Brendan Kruge receives his first MKUltra target in ***North Bend 3*** (by *Ryan Ellsworth & Pablo De Bonis*), and the success of the job could mean life or death for Annie. But before the experiment can even begin, a surprise betrayal throws everything off the rails.

Scout launches its new Young Adult imprint with the $1 ***Scoot! Presents 2020.*** An epic space opera, a slice of life, a journey in the African wilderness, a children's fantasy story come to life—it's all in ***Scoot! Presents,*** and much more. ***Scoot! Presents*** will also feature a host of special previews of upcoming Scoot! imprint releases beginning in July 2020.

Star Bastard TP collects the six-issue series by *Andrew Clemson & Jethro Morales.*

Vlad Dracul #1 (by *Matteo Strukul & Andrea Mutti*) is an epic story of the man who inspired the Dracula legends—but this is the story of the man *behind* the myth. (See the cover story in this issue of ***CSN*** for more info on this compelling series.)

Seth returns seeking vengeance in ***White Ash #5*** (by *Charlie Stickney & Conor Hughes*). Will Katlyn pay the price for his earlier humiliation? As time runs out, Aleck tries to convince Lillian to join him in a rescue operation. And even if she says yes, will they be in time to save Katlyn?

twitter.com/csnsider

BIRDS OF PREY #1

Brian Azzarello (W); Ray McCarthy (A)
(DC NOV190409 $9.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Black Canary's life has spiraled out of control: Her personal life is going through the ringer and her band is in crisis when an old flame resurfaces only to flicker out and set her on an all-new mission against an all-new opponent. The only thing she has to be grateful for is the fact that she's not alone, as Huntress finds herself on a collision course with Black Canary's quarry at Detective Montoya's urging. Meanwhile, Harley Quinn has resurfaced outside of Gotham City and out of the Suicide Squad, with a new lease on life that is sure to make everyone else's life more complicated. And that's only the first five pages of this high-octane, graphic novel–length oneshot!...

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

I seem to recall hearing something about a very popular film of the same name...

CABLE #1 DX

Gerry Duggan (W); Phil Noto (A)
(Marvel JAN200826 $4.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Cable was a grizzled old veteran of the wars to save the future—and he will be again. But for now, he's a young mutant living in paradise and leading a life of adventure! Nathan Summers, son of two of the most powerful mutants on Krakoa, has a destiny leading the youth of mutantkind in rebellion—so why not start now?

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

The all-star team of *Gerry Duggan & Phil Noto* present the adventures of Cable when he was a boy—and the fun will come in seeing how it helps to shape the older Cable we know so well.

DECORUM #1

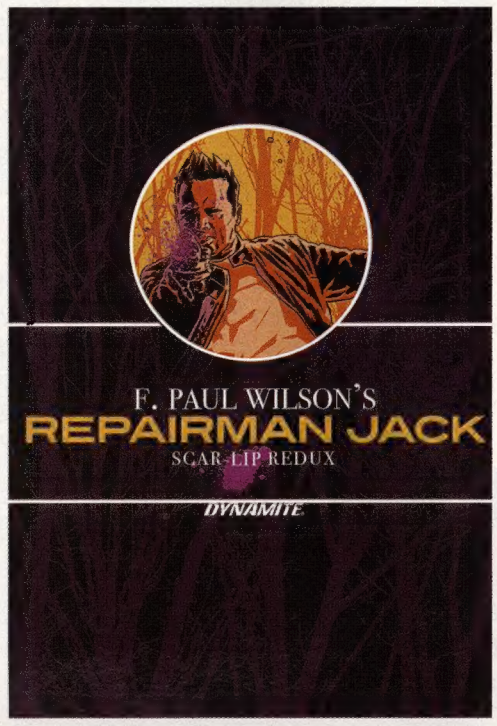
Jonathan Hickman (W); Mike Huddleston (A)
(Image JAN200108 $4.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

There are many assassins in the known universe. ***Decorum*** is the story of the most well-mannered one.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

X-Men superstar *Jonathan Hickman* does us the courtesy of launching a major non-superhero series at Image—and he's politely invited *Mike Huddleston* to join him!



F. PAUL WILSON'S REPAIRMAN JACK: SCAR LIP REDUX HC

F. Paul Wilson (W); Antonio Fuso (A)
(Dynamite JAN201096 $24.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Jack thought he'd seen the last of the Rakoshi, but one has survived—a particularly cunning and deadly Rakosh known to Jack as Scar-Lip. Now, Jack faces the fights of his life as he seeks to end the creature once and for all, before it ends him!

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

F. Paul Wilson, author of the best-selling ***Repairman Jack*** series, brings his signature character to comics in this original graphic novel.

FANTASTIC FOUR: MARVELS SNAPSHOT #1

Evan Dorkin & Sarah Dyer (W); Benjamin Dewey (A)
(Marvel JAN200873 $4.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Get ready for the 10-year high-school reunion of the Fantastic Four's own Human Torch. His hometown of Glenville, Long Island, is going wild, and we see it all through the eyes of the Torch's ex-girlfriend Dorrie Evans and reporter Marcia Hardesty: the preparations, the Torch's long history in town, the festivities, and more. But there's a strange distance between Johnny Storm and his old schoolmates, one Dorrie knows all too well and Marcia is determined to get to the bottom of...

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Marvels Snapshots offer a humans'-eye view of the world of superheroes, just like the *Kurt Busiek–Alex Ross* ***Marvels*** graphic novel—and this one explores an almost forgotten period in the Human Torch's superhero career.

FLASH #750

Francis Manapul & others (W); Rafa Sandoval & others (A)
(DC DEC190400 $7.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

While a supercharged Speed Force wreaks havoc on Barry Allen's life, a new threat appears on the horizon in the form of the deadly Paradox. Destined to destroy the Flash's legacy, Paradox sends his herald, Godspeed, to trap the Flash family! Plus, in this special anniversary issue: tales from across the generations of superspeedsters by an all-star lineup of writers and artists—including a tale that follows up on the shocking revelation from the final pages of ***Flash Forward #6!***

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

The first full tale of a major Flash villain, an exploration of a startling change that could impact the entire DCU, and a celebration of 750 issues, complete with decade covers—that's *plenty* of reason to care!

HELLIONS #1 DX

Zeb Wells (W); Stephen Segovia (A)
(Marvel JAN200820 $4.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

When Krakoa opened their doors to all mutants and forgave all past crimes, they might have known they'd have to accept some of their worst foes into the fold—but they didn't plan for what to *do* with them! Not to worry—Mister Sinister knows what to do with the troublemakers. Meet his new Hellions: Scalphunter, Wild Child, Empath, Nanny, Orphanmaker, Psylocke—and Havok?! Under Sinister's direction, they are sure to become productive members of mutant society.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Marvel gets its own mutant suicide squad in this new series by *Zeb Wells & Stephen Segovia.*

JOIN THE FUTURE #1

Zack Kaplan (W); Piotr Kowalski (A)
(AfterShock JAN201433 $4.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

In the future, ultramodern megacities reward millions of their citizens with a completely funded life, with every need met, from food to housing and healthcare, in order to compete in an economic power struggle in which population is key. But a few rural residents still cling to their independence in what last American small towns are left. When a nearby megacity pressures the people of a small town join up or else, a young teenage girl named Clem will learn how far she'll go to defend her principles.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Zack Kaplan & Piotr Kowalski present a politically charged SF drama that asks what your values are truly worth. If you liked the dystopian symbolism of ***Undiscovered Country,*** this is a book worth checking out...

MARVEL #1 (OF 6)

Alex Ross & others (W); Alex Ross & others (A)
(Marvel JAN200867 $4.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Thirty years ago, *Alex Ross* had a vision of a new series showing the Marvel heroes in a way they'd never been seen before. The first realization of that idea became the *Kurt Busiek–Alex Ross* blockbuster ***Marvels***. Now Alex gives new life to his original vision with this anthology of stories by unique, exceptional talents, many of whom are doing Marvel characters for the very first time.

ICS: MARCH

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Alex Ross, Steve Darnall, Frank Espinosa, Kurt Busiek, and others—if you're looking for distinctive takes on Marvel characters by top-tier talent, this is the book for you!

MIRKA ANDOLFO'S MERCY #1

Mirka Andolfo (W/A)
(Image JAN200129 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

When the placid mining village of Woodsburgh is disturbed by a series of brutal murders, the settlement is in turmoil. And as the first snow covers the chaos in a white blanket, a mysterious woman in black arrives, eliciting a totally different kind of unrest. But who is Lady Hellaine, really? And what's her secret agenda?

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

If there was any doubt that *Mirka Andolfo* was destined for international comics superstardom, ***Mercy*** is the book that will put those doubts to rest.

OUTER DARKNESS/ CHEW #1 (OF 3)

John Layman (W); Afu Chan & Rob Guillory (A)
(Image JAN200159 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Tony Chu is a modern-day cop who gets psychic impressions from what he eats. Joshua Rigg is a 28th-century starship captain who flies through an outer space filled with demons, monsters, and ghosts. So how do these two series cross over? Well, you gotta read it to find out!

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

The creators of ***Chew*** and ***Outer Darkness*** unite (well, it helps that *John Layman* writes them both) to present one of comics' strangest crossovers.

OUTLAWED #1

Eve L. Ewing (W); Kim Jacinto (A)
(Marvel JAN200878 $4.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

In the wake of a devastating tragedy, the United States passes a law that will shake the Marvel Universe to its core. The world has had enough of teen heroes. The crackdown has begun. And the lives of Marvel's next generation will never be the same again.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Eve L. Ewing & Kim Jacinto present a riveting oneshot that picks up where one of the most disturbing storylines in ***Incoming*** left off—and the ramifications of this book are going to affect pretty much every Marvel teen superhero in months to come!

RESISTANCE #1 (OF 6)

J. Michael Straczynski (W); Mike Deodato Jr (A)
(Artists, Writers, & Artisans JAN201608 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

A global disaster leaves hundreds of millions dead in its wake. Shortly after, a few thousand suddenly manifest superhuman powers. Are they harbingers of more perils to come... or Earth's last hope?

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

J. Michael Straczynski returns with a new take on a concept he explored so masterfully in the pages of ***Rising Stars***—and he's joined by veteran (and fan-favorite) artist *Mike Deodato Jr* If any book is going to put *Bill Jemas & Axel Alonso's* AWA on the map, this is it!

ROBIN 80TH ANNIVERSARY 100-PAGE SUPER SPECTACULAR #1

Marv Wolfman & others (W); Tom Grummett & others (A)
(DC JAN200496 $9.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

From the high-flying adventures of Dick Grayson to the tragedy of Jason Todd, the enthusiasm of Tim Drake and the arrogance of Damian Wayne, the persistence of Stephanie Brown and the rebelliousness of Carrie Kelley—the mantle of Robin has been worn by many, but always represents one thing: a hero.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

DC celebrates Robin the Boy Wonder's 80th anniversary in style with an all-star creative team representing each iteration of the iconic character across eight decades of history.

SPIDER-MAN NOIR #1 (OF 5)

Margaret Stohl (W); Juan Ferreyra (A)
(Marvel JAN200816 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

1939: As the specter of war looms on the horizon, Spider-Man Noir fights the good fight at home, stopping the injustices of a more friendly-neighborhood variety. But after a dame is murdered at The Black Cat nightclub and all clues point overseas, Spidey will have no choice but to board the next flight to Europe and kick off a globe-trotting adventure through yesteryear of the Marvel Universe!

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

It's Spider-Man. It's noir. It's a period-piece war-era drama. What's not to like?!

SPIDER-WOMAN #1

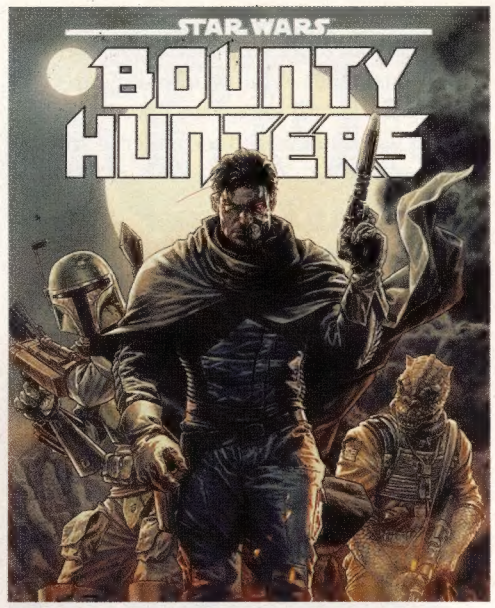
Karla Pacheco (W); Pere Perez (A)
(Marvel JAN200802 $4.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Jessica Drew hasn't been feeling like herself lately. When the angry, irritable, and unwell Spider-Woman takes a simple security gig to help get back on her feet, she finds herself besieged by unknown forces out to destroy everything around her. What's wrong with Jessica? Just how *did* she get this job? And who are these violent lunatics who keep trying to blow her up?

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Karla Pacheco & Pere Perez relaunch ***Spider-Woman*** as a high-energy, plot-twist-filled superhero adventure tale with just a dash of mystery thrown in for good measure.



STAR WARS: BOUNTY HUNTERS #1

Ethan Sacks (W); Paolo Villanelli (A)
(Marvel JAN201017 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Years ago, Valance and fellow bounty hunters Bossk and Boba Fett took on a mission that went sideways in a bad way after Valance's mentor, Nakano Lash, violently betrayed them. Valance's team barely escaped with their lives. He never thought he'd face his old mentor ever again... until Lash finally resurfaces under mysterious circumstances. Every bounty hunter in the galaxy wants a piece of him—and Valance is hell-bent on getting to the prize first, since he has a score to settle. But so does Boba Fett!

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

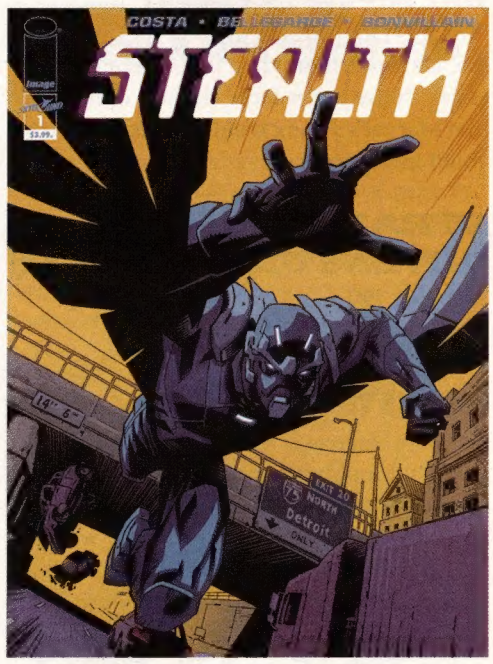
Boba Fett has always been one of the most popular characters in the ***Star Wars*** universe—and for some reason, there seems to be some pretty strong interest in ***Star Wars*** bounty hunters right now...

STEALTH #1 (OF 6)

Mike Costa (W); Nate Bellegarde & Tamra Bonvillain (A)
(Image JAN200138 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

For decades, Stealth has waged war on crime in Detroit, but now he's taken his pursuit of justice too far. Only reporter Tony



Barber knows that behind Stealth's reckless behavior is an older man battling Alzheimer's—his father. A father unwilling to accept that he's no longer the hero this city needs... with enemies all too eager to force his retirement.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Robert Kirkman & Marc Silvestri are the masterminds behind this series, while *Mike Costa, Nate Bellegarde, & Tamra Bonvillain* bring their vision to life on the comic book page. With a pedigree like that, this one is *definitely* worth a closer look.

STRANGE ACADEMY #1

Skottie Young (W); Humberto Ramos (A)

(Marvel JAN200795 $4.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

The Marvel Universe has mysteriously changed in such an alarming way that Doctor Strange has done what he's avoided for decades: He's opened a school for young sorcerers. Young people from around the world with aptitude in magic have been brought together in New Orleans to study the Mystic Arts under Strange, Brother Voodoo, the Ancient One, the Scarlet Witch, Magik, Hellstrom, and more.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Is this Hogwarts in the Marvel Universe? No, it's much more than that—because Harry Potter never faced the sort of menaces that Marvel's young magic wielders are about to discover!

STRANGE ADVENTURES #1 (OF 12)

Tom King (W); Mitch Gerads & Evan Shaner (A)

(DC JAN200506 $4.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Adam Strange is the hero of Rann, a man famous throughout the galaxy for his bravery and honor. After leading his adopted home to victory in a great planetary war, Adam and his wife Alanna retire to Earth, where they are greeted by cheers, awards, and parades. But not all is as happy and nice as it seems, as the decisions Adam made during battles on Rann come back to haunt his family and threaten the entire DC Universe. And now a surprise DC hero will have to choose between saving Adam Strange and saving the world.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Tom King & Mitch Gerads made comics history with their ***Mister Miracle*** series—and now they're joined by *Evan "Doc" Shaner* for a powerful and complex 12-issue series that explores the complicated life of Adam Strange, hero of two worlds.

SUB-MARINER: MARVELS SNAPSHOT #1

Alan Brennert (W); Jerry Ordway (A)

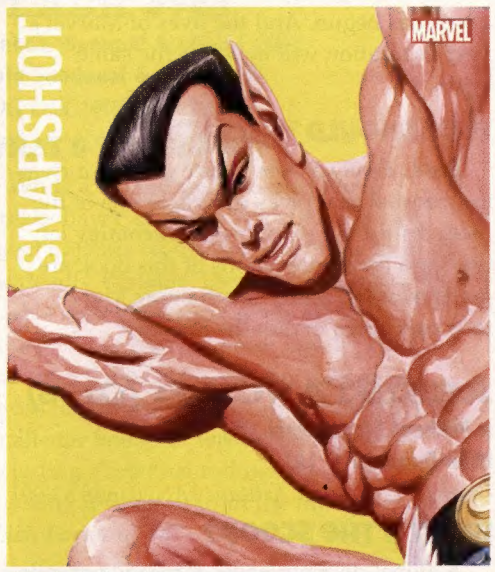
(Marvel JAN200869 $4.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

It's 1946, and the boys are back from World War II. But they haven't left the battlefields behind, as reporter Betty Dean discovers when she and Namor reunite for an outing at Palisades Park, only to find themselves under attack.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Marvels Snapshots offer a humans'-eye view of the world of superheroes, just like the *Kurt Busiek–Alex Ross* ***Marvels*** graphic novel. This oneshot by *Alan Brennert & Jerry Ordway* takes readers back to the later years of the Golden Age with a tale spotlighting Marvel's first superhero, the Sub-Mariner.



Collected Cool:
March's Best Reprint Editions

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN BY J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI OMNIBUS HC VOL 2

(Marvel SEP190968 $125.00)

J. Michael Straczynski's startling storyline "The Other" is the centerpiece for this collection that includes ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 515–545*** and much more.

AQUAMAN: THE SILVER AGE OMNIBUS HC VOL 1

(DC JUL190627 $125.00)

The Silver Age adventures of the Aquaman by *Ramona Fradon, Nick Cardy,* and others are presented in this collection of tales from ***Showcase #s 30–33; Aquaman #s 1–18; Adventure #s 260–280, 282, & 284; World's Finest #s 125–133, 135, 137, & 139; Detective #s 293–300,*** and much more.

BATMAN ALFRED PENNYWORTH TP

(DC DEC190555 $19.99)

Alfred has been a part of the DC Universe for almost 80 years, and this volume collects some of his most memorable tales, beginning with his first appearance in ***Batman #16*** and continuing to ***Batman Annual (2016) #3.***

BATMAN: WHITE KNIGHT DELUXE EDITION HC

(DC NOV190529 $49.99)

This hardcover collection of *Sean Murphy's* eight-issue miniseries also includes extras such as sketches, designs, Murphy's original inked pages, and a brand-new cover by Murphy!

BLACK HAMMER/ JUSTICE LEAGUE: HAMMER OF JUSTICE HC

(Dark Horse NOV190199 $19.99)

Starro attacks two worlds in this memorable and offbeat crossover adventure by *Jeff Lemire & Michael Walsh.*

BLACK WIDOW OMNIBUS HC

(Marvel OCT191096 $100.00)

The early adventures of Natasha Romanoff are collected in a single massive volume, beginning with her sexy-spy debut in ***Tales of Suspense #52*** and continuing through the 1960s, '70s, '80s, and early '90s.

DAREDEVIL/ELEKTRA: LOVE & WAR GALLERY EDITION HC

(Marvel OCT191104 $39.99)

The acclaimed graphic novel and miniseries by *Frank Miller & Bill Sienkiewicz* gets the oversized Gallery Edition format—all the better for showing off Sienkiewicz's painted artwork.

DMZ COMPENDIUM TP 1

(DC DEC190566 $59.99)

Brian Wood & Riccardo Burchielli's near-future SF drama, set in the Second Civil War, is coming to HBO Max—but you can enjoy the story as Wood and Burchielli originally presented it in this compilation of ***DMZ #s 1–36.***

JUST IMAGINE STAN LEE CREATING THE DC UNIVERSE TP BOOK 1

(DC DEC190573 $34.99)

Stan Lee teamed with superstar artists like *Dave Gibbons, Jerry Ordway, Jim Lee, Joe Kubert, John Buscema, Kevin Maguire,* and others to show what the DC Universe might have looked like had Stan brought DC's superheroes to life on the printed page.

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA: THE NAIL COMPLETE COLLECTION TP

(DC DEC190575 $29.99)

The Kents' flat tire prevents them from discovering a small rocket ship with an alien baby inside it—and from there, the DC Universe is radically changed in this collection of *Alan Davis's* ***Justice League of America: The Nail #s 1–3*** and ***Justice League of America: Another Nail #s 1–3.***

Hot Commodities: March's Best Merchandising & Collectibles

BATMAN BLACK & WHITE STATUE BY DOUG MAHNKE

(DC Collectibles AUG190704 $90.00)

The striking and stylish art of *Doug Manhke* is the inspiration for this distinctive black-and-white 7" tall statue.

BATMAN VS HARLEY QUINN BATTLE STATUE SECOND EDITION

(DC Collectibles AUG190702 $375.00)

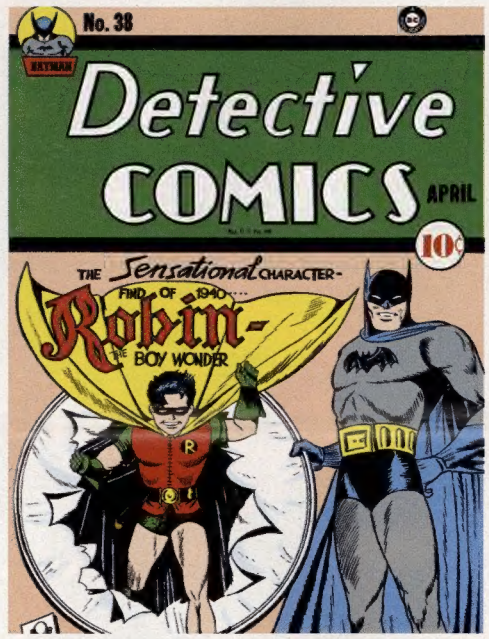
The sold-out ***Batman versus Harley Quinn*** battle statue is reissued, but it's not just a second printing of the same statue: Instead, the original is retooled, repainted, and better than ever!

Just the Facs, Ma'am: March's Best Facsimile Editions (Ads-and-All Reprints of Key Comics)

THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD #28 FACSIMILE EDITION

(DC JAN200610 $3.99)

The Justice League made their debut in this 1960 issue of ***The Brave and the Bold.***



DETECTIVE COMICS #38 FACSIMILE EDITION

(DC JAN200611 $3.99)

DC presents its first Golden Age Facsimile Edition with this reprint of 1940's ***Detective #38,*** the comic that introduced Robin to the world.

INCREDIBLE HULK #182 FACSIMILE EDITION

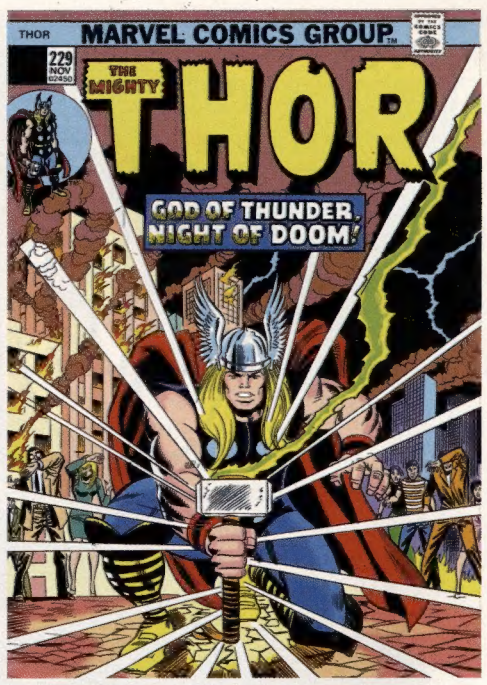
(Marvel JAN200836 $3.99)

Marvel has already done Facsimile Editions of Wolverine's cameo in ***Incredible Hulk #180*** and his first full appearance in ***Incredible Hulk #181,*** so now Marvel is doing a Facsimile Edition of the last part of the story that introduced Wolverine to the world.

MYSTERY IN SPACE #75 FACSIMILE EDITION

(DC JAN200612 $3.99)

The Silver Age Justice League never looked better than they did in this memorable Adam Strange crossover tale illustrated by Silver Age great *Carmine Infantino.*



THOR #229 FACSIMILE EDITION

(Marvel JAN200837 $3.99)

There's nothing particularly memorable about the Thor story in this issue—but an ad contained herein marks the actual first in-print appearance of Wolverine in a promo for ***Incredible Hulk #180.***

FYI: : Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

BACK ISSUE #119

(TwoMorrows DEC191934 $9.95)

The Guardians of the Galaxy get their moment in the spotlight in this issue, which explores the team from their beginning in ***Marvel Super Heroes*** forward, along with in-depth looks at the pre-Guardians history of Star-Lord and Rocket Raccoon.

COMIC BOOK CREATOR #22

(TwoMorrows NOV191956 $9.95)

P. Craig Russell, one of comics' finest illustrators, is the focus of this issue of ***Comic Book Creator,*** which features a career-spanning interview, lots of art, and more.

DAVE COCKRUM X-MEN ARTIFACT ED HC

(IDW OCT190848 $150.00)

The artist who helped to reintroduce the X-Men to the world in ***Giant Size X-Men #1*** is celebrated in this Artist's Edition–style collection that reproduces the original art in full size, scanned in full color to show every blue line, every pencil mark, and every correction.